

**Testimony on House Bills 4232, 4233 & 4234
To
House Education Committee
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
Submitted by
Dennis P. Harbour, Superintendent
Copper Country Intermediate School District
Hancock, Michigan 49931**

Please accept this document as a testimony in support of HB 4232, 4233 and 4234 that would allow an Intermediate School District Superintendent or their designee to serve as the Superintendent for one of its constituent districts.

Within the Copper Country Intermediate School District and throughout the State of Michigan, we have many small K-12 school districts who are struggling financially with declining enrollment, rising health care and retirement costs and dwindling State resources. As a result, districts have been asked to consolidate services in an effort to reduce operational costs. The above mentioned bills would simply provide an option to contract these services with their ISD, and ultimately reduce administrative costs.

Interestingly enough, the current law restricts K-12 schools from exercising this option. However, K-6 and K-8 districts have utilized this option for many years. Within the Copper Country Intermediate School District, I serve as the Superintendent for three K-6 school districts. As a result, these small districts have been able to keep their administrative costs at a minimum.

Recently at a Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) Upper Peninsula Superintendents meeting in Marquette, this bill was referenced and unanimously endorsed by approximately 45 Upper Peninsula school Superintendents in attendance. We all believe this bill will provide more flexibility and ultimately a cost cutting measure.

If you should need additional information, or if I can be of assistance to you during the process of reviewing these bills, please do not hesitate to contact me.